

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE CONSTRUCTION

-- INDUSTRY

FOR THE LABOR ATTACHES

1. MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE DEVELOPED PROGRAMS OVER
THE LAST TWENTY YEARS TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY IN THE

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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THROUGH THE PLANNING AND SCHEDULING

OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. THESE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO BE COUNTER-SEASONAL AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL AND HAVE PURPORTEDLY INCREASED BOTH THE OUTPUT AND THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

2. THE SECRETARY OF LABOR IS VERY INTERESTED IN DETERMINING WHAT POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS THESE PROGRAMS MIGHT HAVE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES. A PILOT PROJECT, THE CHICAGO CONSTRUCTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN ANALYZING THE FEASIBILITY OF INITIATING SUCH PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS AND SPECIFIC DATA ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

I. THE SCHEDULING AND PLANNING OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION:
COUNTER-SEASONAL AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAMS:

1. GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF CONSTRUCTION SPENDING.
2. GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO ENCOURAGE YEAR-ROUND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.
3. GOVERNMENT TAX-BENEFITS TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY.
4. INDUSTRY FINANCE PROGRAMS TO COUNTER-ACT SEASONALITY.
5. GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OF DIRECT COSTS FOR WINTER CONSTRUCTION.

II. GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS FOR PUBLICALLY FINANCED CONSTRUCTION:

1. MAINTENANCE WORK PERFORMED DURING SPECIFIC MONTHS.
2. MECHANISMS FOR SCHEDULING PUBLIC WORK DURING THE WINTER.
3. THE USE OF STATE-BANK LOANS TO CONTROL THE TIMING OF CONSTRUCTION STARTS.
4. THE USE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS/CONTROLS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND STARTING DATES.
5. REQUIREMENTS OF SUBMISSION OF MANPOWER UTILIZATION PLANS WITH CONSTRUCTION BUDGET PROGRAMS AND PROPOSALS.

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III. STATISTICAL ANALYSES/REPORTS SHOWING:

1. INCREASES IN PRODUCTIVITY OF WORK-FORCE-- MEASUREMENT INDICATORS.
2. INCREASES IN PRODUCTIVITY IN THE INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF CAPITAL OR MATERIAL RESOURCES.
3. DECREASES IN UNEMPLOYMENT AS A RESULT OF THESE PROGRAMS.

4. ANALYSIS AND COST SAVINGS OF COUNTER-SEASONAL AND/OR COUNTER-CYCLICAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS VERSUS PUBLIC WELFARE PROGRAMS (I.E., UNEMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE PROGRAMS).

5. RESULTS OF THE USE OF TAX OR OTHER ECONOMIC INCENTIVES WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO COUNTER-ACT SEASONALITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

3. THE REPORTS AND ANALYSES INCLUDED IN SECTION III ABOVE ARE NEEDED FOR A PRESENTATION TO AN ALL-AGENCY UNDER SECRETARIES MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 15, 1976. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THESE DOCUMENTS BE SENT IN DUPLICATE IF POSSIBLE, BY AIR MAIL SO AS TO ARRIVE IN

WASHINGTON NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 12, 1976, ADDRESSED TO:

--- SECRETARY OF LABOR
---- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
---- ROOM S-2511
--- 200 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
--- WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210.

4. THE MATERIALS INCLUDED IN ITEMS I AND II WILL BE INCORPORATED IN A WRITTEN REPORT TO BE COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY 1976. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THESE ITEMS BE FORWARDED SO AS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 1976. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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